[Medieval Georgia]

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THE PEOPLE AND THE POWER

701 It was the practice of the Georgian Kings [illegible] of the earlier Iberian rulers to maintain a force of regular paid troops in garrison at Tiflis and in the provincial fortresses. David Aghmashenebeli in the twelfth century is reputed to have kept 60,000 paid troops always under arms.[1] A proportion of these regular troops appear generally to have been foreign mercenaries. David Aghmashenebeli certainly had large numbers of Kipchaks and Ossetians in his pay; his grandfather Bagrat IV in the eleventh century had three thousand Warangs—Russians or possibly Saxon and Norse freebooters like those who served the Byzantine Emperors—fighting for him in his difficult wars against the feudality[2]: Giorgi Lasha according to the Annals, lost an eye in a brawl with his mercenary horsemen in the streets of Tiflis, when he visited their barracks drunk and they did not recognize him[3]: and it was the Persian mercenaries of Rusudani who betrayed the gates of Tiflis to Jalal-ul-din, and who together with the Persians living in the city attacked the Georgian defenders from inside.[4]

701 647 The regular troops were apparently responsible for providing their own arms, but they received a fixed pay. The *Amir-Spasalari* exercised the functions of command under the King, and the *Msakhurt-Ukhutsesi* was responsible for the practical and technical organization of the army. During the great days of the mediæval Kingdom, the *Mdsignobart-Ukhutsesi*, Chief of the Secretaries of the King, who was by custom the occupant of the important Imerian see of Dchqondidi, occupied a special relation to the army. He was responsible for the issue of writs of mobilization, he bore the Holy Cross before the army on the march and, during action, he carried out the duties of *Chakhtauli* or commander of the rearguard. In time of war, the body of the army was, of course, composed of feudal levies, who were summoned by writ and messenger on the approach of hostilities.

701 The feudal army of the Georgian Kings was organized in four banners: the advance guard was made up of the Meskhians; on the right wing were the men of Imereti and Mingrelia, with the Abkhazian and Circassian contingents; on the left were the men of Kakheti and Hereti. The King's bodyguard with the royal standard was composed of Kartlian troops.

It was not always the case that a general mobilization was made, and on the occasions of outbreak of a frontier conflict

[1] Wakhushti, *Dis. Géo.*, pp. 35 *et seq.*
[2] *Ibid.*, p. 321.
[3] *Annals*, Brosset, *H. de la G.*, I, 321.
[4] *Ibid.*, p. 303.

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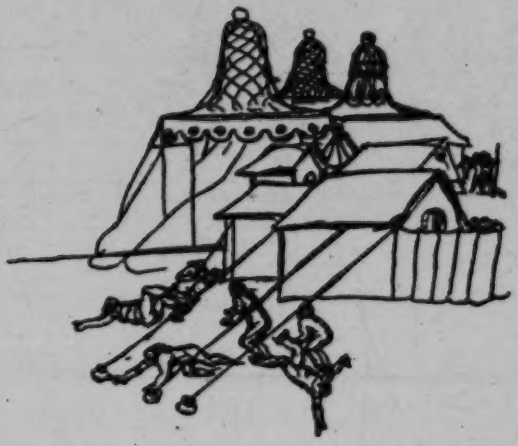
sometimes only the men of Samtzkhé or of Imier might be called out. 701

After the Division of the Kingdom, the Kings of Kartli and the lesser rulers ceased to maintain any effective bodies of troops; in the seventeenth century the Shahs established Persian garrisons in Tiflis and Gori and the Turks had a garrison at Kutais to overlook the Imerian kings. The military strength of the Georgian rulers was then little more than that of powerful feudatories, and when they went to war they had to rely, not upon the armouries, castles and trained mercenaries of the mediæval Kingdom, but upon untrained, unpaid and ill-armed tenants' levies.



[Constitution as of July, 1947]

612 q) Directs the work of legislation concerning labour, marriage and the family;
r) Directs public health;
s) Directs social maintenance;
t) Directs insurance and savings;
u) Directs elementary, secondary and higher education;
v) Directs cultural, educational and scientific organizations and institutions of the Georgian SSR and administers the cultural, educational and scientific organizations and institutions of all-Republican importance;
w) Directs the work of spreading physical culture and sports widely among the citizens;
x) Organizes judicial organs;
y) Grants the rights of citizenship of the Georgian SSR;
z) Grants amnesty and pardon to citizens convicted by judicial organs of the Georgian SSR;
aa) Establishes the representation of the Georgian SSR in international relations;
bb) Establishes the procedure governing the organization of the military formations of the Georgian SSR.

Art. 15. The Georgian SSR reserves the right freely to secede from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Art. 16. The territory of the Georgian SSR may not be altered without its consent.

[648] Art. 16a. The Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic has the right to enter into direct relations with foreign states and to conclude agreements and exchange diplomatic and consular representatives with them.

●[701] Art. 16b. The Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic has its own Republican military formations.

Art. 17. The laws of the USSR are binding within the territory of the Georgian SSR.

[641] Art. 18. Every citizen of the Georgian SSR is a citizen of the USSR.

Citizens of all other Union Republics enjoy on the territory of the Georgian SSR equal rights with citizens of the Georgian SSR.

631 Art. 19. The Georgian SSR consists of the Abkhazian Autonomous SSR, the Adjar Autonomous SSR, the South Ossetian Autonomous Region and the districts of: Abasha, Adigeni, Ambrolauri, Aspindza, Akhalkalaki, Akhaltsikhe, Akhmeta, Bogdanovka, Bolnisi, Borshomi, Vani, Gardabani, Gegechkori, Gori, Gurjaani, Dmanisi, Dusheti, Zemo-Svaneti, Zestafoni, Zugdidi, Kazbeg, Kareli, Kaspi, Kachreti, Kvareli, Kvemo-Svaneti, Klukhori, Kutaisi, Lagodekhi, Lanchkhuti, Marneuli, Makharadze, Mayakovski, Mtskheta, Oni, Orjonikidze, Sagarejo, Samtredia, Sachkhere, Signakhi, Tbilisi, Telavi, Totri-Tskaro, Tianeti, Tkibuli, Khashuri, Khobi, Tsagori, Tsalenjikha, Tsalka, Tsiteli-Tskaro, Tsulukidze, Tskhakaya, Tskhaltubo, Chiatura, Chokhatauri, Chkhari, Chkhorotsku; and the cities of Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Poti and Chiaturi, which do not form part of districts,